

Message Text

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S E C R E T USNATO 1957

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO

SUBJECT: PERMREPS LUNCH DISCUSSION, APRIL 9

BEGIN SUMMARY: PERMREPS AT LUNCH APRIL 9 FURTHER DISCUSSED ATLANTIC RELATIONS AND WISHED TO CONTINUE WORK ON AND COMPLETE NATO ATLANTIC DECLARATION. ON YUGOSLAVIA, WHILE PERMREPS WANTED TO AVOID CONTINGENCY PLANNING, CONSENSUS WAS FOR POLADS TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION, LUNS TO EXERCISE "WATCHING BRIEF," AND PERMREPS TO DISCUSS DEVELOPMENTS AS APPROPRIATE. END SUMMARY.

ATLANTIC RELATIONS

1. AT PERMREPS LUNCH APRIL 9, BELGIAN AMBASSADOR DE STAERCKE RAISED SUBJECT OF ATLANTIC RELATIONS AND POSED FOLLOWING QUESTIONS: A) WHETHER PRESIDENT NIXON WOULD COME TO EUROPE BEFORE VISITING THE USSR IN JUNE, B) HAD THERE BEEN CHANGES IN THE ATLANTIC RELATIONS SITUATION SINCE THE PRESIDENT'S RECENT SECRET

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MEETINGS IN PARIS, AND C) SHOULD NATO PROCEED WITH ITS ATLANTIC DECLARATION.

2. AS TO PRESIDENTIAL TRIP, I RESPONDED IN STANDARD TERMS

THAT TIMING DEPENDED ON SUBSTANTIVE PROGRESS IN THE ATLANTIC RELATIONS FIELD. I HAD NOT BEEN MADE AWARE OF ANY CHANGES IN US POSITION WITH RESPECT TO ATLANTIC RELATIONS AS A RESULT OF THE PRESIDENT'S TRIP TO PARIS. AS TO PROCEEDING WITH THE ATLANTIC DECLARATION, MY ANSWER WAS THE SAME AS THAT GIVEN AT LAST WEEK'S LUNCH AND IN THE COUNCIL--U.S. WOULD BE INTERESTED IN INSTRUCTED COMMENTS REGARDING THE INTEREST OF OTHER COUNTRIES.

3. DE STAERCKE AGREED THE FORMAL U.S. INTERVENTION IN THE COUNCIL LAST FRIDAY HAD BEEN HELPFUL, BUT SAID SOME BELIEVED THE U.S. WAS SIMPLY LOOKING FOR A WAY TO ABANDON THE DECLARATION AND CAST THE BLAME ON THE OTHER ALLIES. HE HOPED THE U.S. WANTED TO SALVAGE THE NATO DECLARATION AND ACHIEVE A DECLARATION AT FIFTEEN.

4. DE STAERCKE SAID THAT WHILE THERE NO POSSIBILITY OF SOLVING THE PROBLEMS OF THE NINE AT FIFTEEN, THERE WOULD BE MORE CHANGE OF SUCCESS AT NINE IF WE SUCCEEDED AT FIFTEEN. BUT IF THE U.S. WAS SEEKING AT FIFTEEN THE ORGANIC RELATIONSHIP WITH THE NINE IT FAILED TO GET FROM THE NINE, THIS WAS ASKING TOO MUCH.

5. YSG LUNS SAID THE U.S. SHOULD CLEARLY INDICATE ITS VIEWS. THE U.S. SHOULD NOT DEAL WITH THE ALLIANCE AS THOUGH IT WERE ONE AND FOURTEEN; THE ALLIANCE IS FIFTEEN.

6. I RESPONDED THAT THE BASIC PROBLEMS SET FORTH IN SECRETARY KISSINGER'S APRIL 23 SPEECH STILL EXIST AND THAT IS WHAT THE ATLANTIC RELATIONS DIALOGUE IS ABOUT. THE U.S. DID NOT ASK FOR A DECLARATION OF THE NINE A YEAR AGO. THE ISSUE IS NOT THAT WE EXPECT TO SOLVE THE PROBLEMS OF THE NINE AT FIFTEEN RATHER, WE ARE ASKING HOW TO BEST DEAL WITH THE PROBLEMS SET FORTH A YEAR AGO BY DR. KISSINGER, AND THOSE THAT HAVE BECOME CLEARER DURING THE INTERIM. AFTER OUR INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS, I THOUGHT IT WAS NOW TIME TO DISCUSS MATTERS IN THE COUNCIL, AS US HAS DONE.

ALLIANCE CONSULTATIONS ON YUGOSLAVIA
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7. IN DISCUSSION OF YUGOSLAVIA AND NATO, ITALIAN PERMREP CATALANO SAID ROME WAS AGAINST ANY ALLIANCE DISCUSSION OF YUGOSLAVIA BECAUSE OF THE DANGER OF LEAKS. DE STAERCKE AND ERALP SAID THEY WERE NOT WORRIED ABOUT THIS. NETHERLANDS PERMREP HARTOGH SAID IT WAS SILLY NOT TO BE ABLE TO TALK IN NATO ABOUT YUGOSLAVIA, AND DE STAERCKE UNDERLINED THE POINT, SAYING THAT EVERYONE KNEW TITO WOULD DIE SOME TIME AND THE ALLIES SHOULD NOT BE INHIBITED BY FEARS ABOUT PUBLIC COMMUNIST COMPLAINTS THAT NATO WAS DISCUSSING YUGOSLAVIA.

8. GREEK AND TURKISH PERMREPS POINTED THAT THE 1954 GRECO-TURKISH-YUGOSLAV TREATY OF BLED WAS STILL IN FORCE AND COULD BE INVOKED.

9. FRG PERMREP KRAPF POINTED TO HARM AND EVEN DANGER IN SEEMING TO SHOW THAT NATO HAD NO INTEREST IN YUGOSLAVIA. MENZIES FAVORABLY CITED ADVANTAGES TO CERTAIN ELEMENTS IN YUGOSLAVIA OF BEING ABLE TO PLAY SOVIETS OFF AGAINST NATO.

10. CONSENSUS WAS THAT WHILE NATO WOULD NOT ENGAGE IN ACTUAL CONTINGENCY PLANNING, THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE WOULD EXCHANGE INFORMATION ON YUGOSLAVIA AS IT DOES ON MANY OTHER COUNTRIES. LUNS WOULD EXERCISE A "WATCHING BRIEF" ON YUGOSLAVIA.

11. COMMENT: WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING FURTHER GUIDANCE MENTIONED STATE 71035 ON APPROACH U.S. MIGHT WISH TO TAKE TO STUDY OF YUGOSLAVIA.

CONSULTATIONS ON LAW OF THE SEA ISSUES

12. UK CHARGE LOGAN REFERRED TO POLAD'S DISCUSSION EARLIER IN THE DAY OF LAW OF THE SEA CONSULTATIONS (SEPTTEL) AND SAID UK HAD DOUBTS ABOUT USEFULNESS. IT WAS DIFFICULT TO AGREE UPON A CONVENIENT DATE AND AGENDA ITEMS. FRENCH, TURKISH, AND NETHERLANDS REPS ALL SUPPORTED CONSULTATIONS. CANADIAN PERMREP MENZIES POINTED TO SECURITY IMPLICATIONS OF LOS AND POSSIBLE CONFLICTING SECURITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL INTERESTS. HE SAID NATO ALLIES HAD AN OBLIGATION TO MAKE SURE WE DISCUSS THESE QUESTIONS.

SECDEF'S RECENT COMMENTS ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS

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13. I RAISED THIS SUBJECT AND PROMISED TO DISTRIBUTE AS SOON AS RECEIVED FULL TRANSCRIPT OF THE Q&A DURING SECRETARY SCHLESINGER'S APRIL 4 SENATE TESTIMONY. THERE WAS NO ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION.

CCMS

14. DE STAERCKE, CITING A RECENT ARTICLE IN THE ECONOMIST, ASKED ABOUT TRENDS IN THE UNITED STATES IN PUBLIC INTEREST IN ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONS. I REPLIED THAT IN THE UNITED STATES, AS IN OTHER DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, THE ENERGY CRISIS AND RECENT INFLATIONARY PROBLEMS WERE ACTING TO MODERATE THE SWING OF THE PENDULUM TOWARD ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES, BUT A CERTAIN SLACKENING OF PUBLIC INTEREST WAS ALSO TO BE EXPECTED AFTER THE RECENT SURGE OF ENTHUSIASM FOR ECOLOGICAL QUESTIONS. RESPONDING TO DE STAERCKE'S ENQUIRY, I SAID I WAS NOT AWARE OF ANY SHIFT IN THE FOCUS OF OFFICIAL U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES FROM CCMS TO OECD.

RUMSFELD

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